

Argentine Official Suggests Basis for Anti-Cuban Action

Fidel Castro told the Argentine ambassador in Havana that Raul Castro is to sign a "military pact" with Czechoslovakia during his current visit to Prague, according to Luis De Pablo Pardo, an influential official of the Argentine Foreign Ministry. De Pablo Pardo considers that a "military pact" would constitute a basis for united Latin American action against Cuba in the Organization of American States (OAS) because of "clear incompatibility with the Rio Treaty."

Argentine Ambassador Julio Amoedo has maintained a close friendship with Fidel Castro, although he has been critical of Castro's actions. Amoedo arranged a meeting in May between 13 Latin American ambassadors and Fidel Castro designed to impress Castro with their concern over evidence of Cuba's abandoning the "Latin American family" and over its deteriorating relations with the United States.

Raul Castro, who arrived in Prague on 26 June, is probably seeking military equipment, including aircraft, which the Czechs may be willing to provide. The American army attaché in Havana was told by a reliable source on 20 June that eight Cuban officers are shortly to leave for Czechoslovakia as the first of a series of Cuban teams to undergo training there in artillery methods. Several Cuban air force mechanics are also reportedly to receive training there soon in aircraft maintenance.

De Pablo Pardo did not say what he meant by a "military pact," but any military agreement with a bloc nation, even if limited to training and supplies, would be regarded by many Latin American leaders as politically incompatible with the Rio Treaty of 1947, which provides for the mutual defense of the 21 American republics. Strong OAS action against the Castro regime, however, would require the support of such countries as Venezuela which have insisted that certain Cuban policies are erroneous but that the Dominican dictatorship problem must be resolved before OAS action is taken against Castro.

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